

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-11

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FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, AS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BACKGROUND IMPRESSIONS ON US- AUSTRALIAN

CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MELBOURNE 0549

1. THE WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN WALDMANN, MEADOWS AND MINISTER JONES HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT WITH SUFFICIENT FIRST- HAND INFORMATION TO PREDICT THE DIRECTION OF THE FORTHCOMING JULY TALKS. THIS MESSAGE IS MERELY TO ADD AN EXTRA DIMENSION TO THIS MEETING BY REPORTING IMPRESSIONS OBTAINED FROM DCA WORKING- LEVEL OFFICIALS.

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS DCA OFFICERS, PARTICULARLY TREVOR PYMAN, INDICATE THAT THE EARLIER CONGEN PROGNOSIS THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESULT IN ABROGATION OF THE BASIC US- AUSTRALIAN BILATERAL CIVIL AIR TREATIES IS CONFIRMED. PYMAN, A MODERATE, WHO IN THE PAST DID NOT AGREE WITH THE DCA- QANTAS FACTION WHICH PRESSED FOR RENEGOTIATION ON THE BASIS OF CAPACITY PROBLEMS, NOW FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT THE COMBINATION OF CAPACITY AND ROUTING MAKES IT IMPERATIVE TO BEGIN ANEW IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A SATISFACTORY AND EQUITABLE (FOR QANTAS) SOLUTION.

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3. SIR DONALD ANDERSON IS OUT OF MELBOURNE AND THEREFORE NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ON MINISTER JONES' S WASHINGTON STATEMENT THAT HE ANDERSON, WOULD VISIT WASHINGTON IN JULY FOR FURTHER TALKS. THE FEELING WITHIN DCA IS THAT JONES MIGHT HAVE CHANGED HIS MIND FROM HIS PREVIOUS POSITION WHICH WAS THAT SIR DONALD WOULD NOT GO TO WASHINGTON, AT LEAST NOT AS THE GOVERNMENT TEAM LEADER AND THAT EITHER TREVOR PYMAN OR MASON CHAPMAN WOULD HEAD THE DELEGATION. IF JONES HAS ADVISED DEPARTMENT OF SPECIFICS IN WASHINGTON, OBVIOUSLY THE PRECEDING SPECULATION IS INOPERATIVE.

5. MERGER TALKS BETWEEN DCA AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT ARE TAKING FULL PRECEDENCE AND PRESSURE ON ADMINISTRATORS TO BRING IN A FIRST DRAFT NEXT MONTH IS CONSIDERABLE. NEVERTHELESS, DCA HAS STILL HAD TIME TO ADVISE NEW ZEALAND THAT CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS MAY BE PLACED ON CERTAIN AIR NEW ZEALAND FLIGHTS, INTO AND OUT OF SYDNEY BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND HONG KONG, IN ORDER TO BOOST QANTAS' MARKET SHARE. THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO A HEAD BY AIR NEW ZEALAND' S ANTICIPATED INTRODUCTION OF DC-10' S ON THE ROUTE. THEREFORE, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT A SPECIFIC CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE QANTAS' HEGEMONY IN AND AROUND AUSTRALIA IS BEING WAGED ON MANY FRONTS.

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